



LITTLE TOKYO BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

e-newsletter



Taiko group at 2016 opening ceremony, Weller Court

Little Tokyo to Welcome the New Year

A crowd exceeding last year's 12,000 visitors is expected this Sunday, New Year's Day, when Little Tokyo celebrates the arrival of the Year of the Rooster.

Presented by the Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Southern California, *Oshogatsu* (New Year's Festival) brings traditional and contemporary entertainment, food booths, crafts, and much more to Downtown Los Angeles for this annual extravaganza.

Beginning with the ceremonial breaking of the sake barrel at 11 a.m. on the main stage at Weller Court, festival activities continue until 4 p.m. and include festivities at Japanese Village Plaza and Frances Hashimoto Plaza as well.

Popkiller Celebrates Lucky 13th Year

There's a unicorn in the window of Popkiller at 343 E. 2nd Street. It's just one of the items that lets customers know this store is full of hidden treasures.

Celebrating its 13th anniversary, Popkiller and sister store, Pop Tee, 349 E. 2nd St., have become favorite stops for Little Tokyo visitors.

Both stores carry a full array of apparel, fun gift items and souvenirs.

Pop Tee carries graphic T-shirt designs by artists from Los Angeles and Japan.

Happy Lucky 13!



Popkiller marks 13th year in Little Tokyo.

Free Film Screening: WWII Children's Village

"One Two One Seven," Brett Kodama's film about the Children's Village of Manzanar, will be shown on **Saturday, Jan. 7**, at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, Garden Room, from **2 p.m.**

The documentary tells the story of orphaned Japanese American children who spent World War II behind barbed wire following President Franklin D. Roosevelt's order to remove all persons of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast during the war.



Sharon Kodama spent early childhood in WWII camp

Co-sponsored by Friends of Manzanar and Little Tokyo Business Association (LTBA), the screening will be followed by a discussion with Kodama and Dr. Cathy Irwin, author of *Twice Orphaned: Voices of the Children's Village of Manzanar*.

Admission is free, but reservations are required. Reserve your space by emailing board@visittokyo.com or calling LTBA at (213) 880-6875.

[Download event flyer.](#)

Westways Spotlights Local Businesses

Westways magazine, Automobile Club of Southern California publication, featured five Little Tokyo businesses among the "Local Outings" recommendations in its October edition.

In the article, novelist and former *Rafu Shimpo* editor Naomi Hirahara takes the reader on a nostalgic trip through the area founded by Japanese immigrants in the late 1800s and still thriving today.

The focus was on businesses that have withstood the test of time: Bunkado gift store, Fugetsu-do confectionery shop, Anzen Hardware, Daimaru Hotel, and Mitsuru Cafe, where customers line up to buy their sweet, bean-filled pancakes known as *imagawayaki*.

[Read the full Westways article.](#)

City Mulling Guidelines for Street Vending Regulation

The debate over legalizing sidewalk vendors has been raging for about 20 years, but a proposal by City Council members Curren Price and Joe Buscaino could soon bring the matter to a resolution.

Under the Price-Buscaino recommendations, a citywide sidewalk vending policy could resolve such issues as: (1) how long a street vendor may stay in one location; (2) how many vendors are allowed per block; and (3) how to better enforce County health regulation compliance.

On Dec. 12, the City's Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee members heard statements on behalf of both the street vendors and the Coalition to Save Small Business. to remind them that most brick-and-mortar establishments are small businesses struggling to survive.

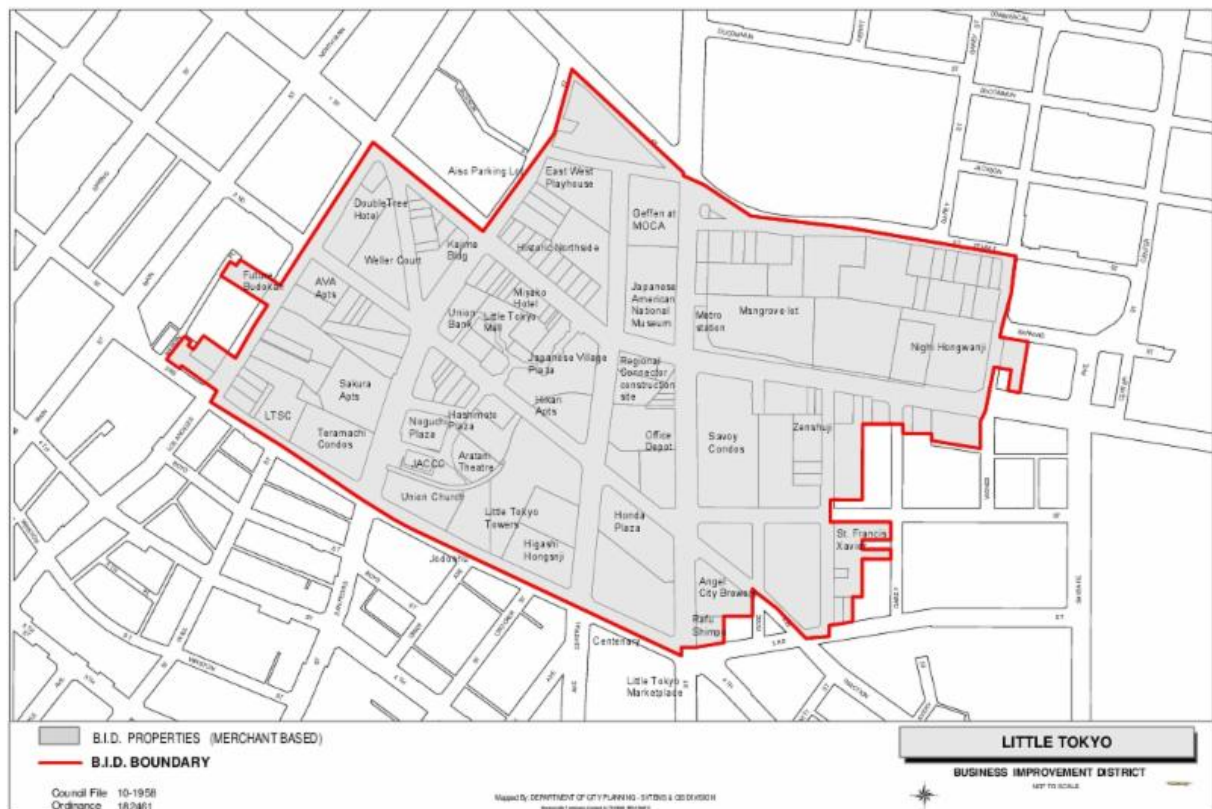


Fruit cart at 1st & San Pedro St

There are currently 50,000 sidewalk vendors in the city. Of these, nearly 10,000 are food vendors. The remaining 40,000 sell non-food items, according to the city's Bureau of Street Services.

The Little Tokyo BID has received numerous complaints not only about the sidewalk carts but also about the food trucks on 1st and 2nd Sts. "I pay thousands in rent, then a food truck that pays no rent pulls up and parks in front of my business, parking all day. It's not fair," said one merchant.

There are over 450 businesses operating within the Little Tokyo BID boundaries. Of that number, 100 are restaurants.



What is a BID?

Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) are specified areas within a city that are overseen by a nonprofit entity and provide services such as safety, sidewalk cleanup, events, and marketing. BIDs are typically funded by an additional tax assessment. Little Tokyo is one of more than 40 BIDs within the City of Los Angeles.

In 2003, the Los Angeles City Council established the Little Tokyo BID as a merchant-based BID to be managed by the Little Tokyo Business Association. Merchants are assessed annually based on gross receipts. There are also property-based BIDs, which assess property owners according to property

values. BIDs have been established in nearly 1,000 major cities and small towns throughout the United States. New York City alone has 67 BIDs.

A strong BID benefits the community because it can:

- Unify businesses to work toward a common goal.
- Help to economically revitalize a community.
- Allow area business to compete for retail market share through marketing.
- Permit businesses to voice concerns and create a unified voice to represent communities.
- Provide vital day-to-day services such as safety and sidewalk and gutter cleanup.



Questions about the Little Tokyo BID or assessments may be directed to (213) 880-6875 or by emailing board@visittokyo.com. BID boundaries cover the Greater Historic Little Tokyo area as shown in the map above. [Download map.](#)

NEED ASSISTANCE?

Little Tokyo BID Safety Patrol
(213) 326-0636

Free Bulky Item Pick-up
[Go to Sanitation Department website](#)
Dial 3-1-1 or call (800) 773-2489

Little Tokyo Business Association
Managers of the Little Tokyo BID
Phone (213) 880-6875
Email: board@visittokyo.com

LT Sparkle a Success

LT Sparkle, a community-wide cleanup day chaired by Steven Nagano, drew approximately 400 volunteers (possible more) armed with plastic gloves, brooms, shovels, and squeegees determined to keep Little Tokyo clean.

Aside from the individuals who stepped up to volunteer, Nagano received support from the Little Tokyo Rotary Club, Little Tokyo Historical Society, Little Tokyo Business Association, Little Tokyo Public Safety Association, and other groups.



Volunteers work on Historic North 1st St.



Website Guides Little Tokyo Visitors

For up-to-date information about what to do and see in Little Tokyo, check out www.golittletokyo.com, a collaboration between Metro and the Little Tokyo Community Council, for information about discounts, special offers, and things to do and see in Little Tokyo. The site features a detailed [map](#) with directions on where to find convenient parking and how to get here using public transportation.



\$1 OFF
Regular or Combo Meal

VALID ONLY AT LITTLE TOKYO LOCATION, 134 S. CENTRAL AVE, OFFICE DEPOT CENTER.
NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER COUPON OR OFFER. Offer Expires 05/30/2017.

[DOWNLOAD COUPON](#)

Little Tokyo BID | www.visitlittletokyo.com

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